

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

SAM-01 EB-07 /111 W

----- 063717

O 292332Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9514

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4050

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA

SUBJECT: PLO REQUEST TO SPEAK IN GENERAL DEBATE

REF: A) USUN 3933 B) STATE 240215

1. GA PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE (SRI LANKA) READ SHORT STATEMENT (FULL TEXT IN PARA 6) BEFORE GIVING FLOOR TO FINAL SPEAKER IN MORNING SESSION OF GENERAL DEBATE SEPTEMBER 29. STATEMENT RECALLED THAT LIST OF SPEAKERS IN GENERAL DEBATE WOULD BE CLOSED AT 6:00 PM TODAY, AND NOTED THAT FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OBSERVERS COULD PARTICPATE IN GENERAL DEBATE AN "UNDERSTANDING" HAS BEEN REACHED THAT THE MATTER WOULD NOT BE PURSUED. AMERASINGHE RULED, HOWEVER, THAT IF ANY SPEAKER DURING GENERAL DEBATE SHOULD MAKE REMARKS WHICH CALL FOR A REPLY FROM AN OBSERVER, THEN THE FLOOR WOULD BE GIVEN TO THAT OBSERVER.

2. EGYPTIAN MISSION COUNSELOR CALLED US ABOUT AN HOUR BEFORE AMERASINGHE READ STATEMENT IN PLENARY TO CONVEY REPORT THAT PLO, IN THE HOPE OF AVOIDING A ROW AND HEADING TO A DEGREE EGYPTIAN INFLUENCE, HAD AGREED NOT TO PUSH ITS REQUEST TO SPEAK IN THE  
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GENERAL DEBATE. EGYPTIAN COUNSELOR NOTED THAT

PLO DID NOT MAKE COMMITMENT NOT TO SEEK TO REPLY DURING GENERAL DEBATE IF PROVOKED. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, PLO PERMANENT OBSERVER TERZI CALLED ON AMERASINGHE BEFORE OPENING OF TODAY'S GENERAL DEBATE AND PRESUMABLY AGREED TO FORMULA CONTAINED IN AMERASINGHE'S STATEMENT. USYG BUFFUM CALLED AMBASSADOR BENNETT FOLLOWING TERZI'S MEETING WITH GA PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE AND CONFIRMED THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING WHICH RESULTED IN AMERASINGHE'S STATEMENT.

3. ISRAELI MISSION OFFICER INFORMED US THAT THEIR POSITION WAS NOT TO OBJECT TODAY TO AMERASINGHE'S STATEMENT, BUT MISSION WAS CONSIDERING ACTIVELY COURSES OF ACTION ON HOW TO REACT SHOULD PLO REQUEST TO MAKE REPLY IN GENERAL DEBATE. AMBASSADOR HERZOG LATER TOLD AMBASSADOR BENNETT THAT AT THIS STAGE ISRAELI POSITION WAS TO GO ALONG WITH AMERASINGHE'S FORMULA. MOST LIKELY TIMING WOULD BE OCTOBER 7 AFTER ISRAELI FM MAKES GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT.

4. BRITISH MISSION TOLD US EC-9 GROUP WOULD MEET SOON TO CONSIDER WHETHER EC-9 MIGHT WANT TO MAKE STATEMENT IF PLO GRANTED FLOOR AS RIGHT OF REPLY. EC-9 DID NOT CHALLENGE RULING OF AMERASINGHE, AND WOULD LIKELY LIMIT ANY FUTURE REACTION TO STATEMENT OF RESERVATION ON UNPRECEDENTED PRACTICE OF OBSERVERS SPEAKING, EVEN IN EXERCISE OF REPLY, DURING GENERAL DEBATE.

5. BEGIN TEXT:

"BEFORE GIVING THE FLOOR TO THE NEXT SPEAKER, I SHOULD LIKE TO REMIND THE ASSEMBLY THAT THE LIST OF SPEAKERS IN THE GENERAL DEBATE WILL BE CLOSED AT 6:00 PM THIS AFTERNOON IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FOURTH PLENARY MEETING.

" IT IS MY DUTY TO INFORM THE ASSEMBLY THAT THE QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED WHETHER OBSERVERS COULD CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTICIPATE IN THE GENERAL DEBATE. I HAVE HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH THOSE CONCERNED AND AS A RESULT OF THESE CONSULTATIONS THE UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN REACHED THAT, IN ORDER TO AVOID CREATING A PRECEDENT THAT COULD GIVE RISE TO CERTAIN PROBLEMS AND COULD PROLONG THE GENERAL DEBATE BEYOND THE PERIOD ALLOTTED TO IT, THE MATTER WILL NOT BE PURSUED.

"I AM GREATLY OBLIGED TO THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED  
ME TO ARRIVE AT THIS UNDERSTANDING FOR THEIR COOPERATION.

"I MUST MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT IF  
ANY SPEAKER IN THE COURSE OF THE GENERAL DEBATE SHOULD  
MAKE ANY REMARKS WHICH CALL FOR A REPLY FROM AN  
OBSERVER, I SHALL GIVE THAT OBSERVER THE FLOOR IN  
THE PLENARY SO THAT HE MAY REPLY. END TEXT.

6. IN ADDITION TO BRITISH AND ISRAELI VIEWS, DUTCH AND  
WEST GERMANS CONSULTED US ON FLOOR OF PLENARY. WE ALL  
AGREED ON UNDESIRABILITY OF STATEMENT TODAY, PARTICULARLY  
IN VIEW OF PROVISIONAL NATURE OF PRESIDENT'S RULING. IN  
EVENT RULING SHOULD COME INTO PLAY AT LATER DATE, THERE  
WILL BE OPPORTUNITY AT THAT TIME TO MAKE KNOWN OUR OPPOSITION.  
FOR THE MOMENT, WE HAVE ACHIEVED OUR PURPOSE -- THE PRECEDENT  
OF NON-PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS IN GENERAL DEBATE HAS  
BEEN UPHELD.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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